

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF BAWDESWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 5th MARCH 2026 AT BAWDESWELL VILLAGE HALL STARTING AT 7.00PM.

Present: D. Shannon (Acting Chair), R. Hannent, M. Bailey, P. Craven and C. Good.

J. Boxall – Parish Clerk, District Councillor G. Bambridge

Members of the public – 6

1. To receive and note apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hartley-Walder.

2. To record declarations of interest from members in any item to be discussed

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr Shannon and Cllr Good on matters relating to the Breckland Local Plan

3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5th February 2026

It was unanimously **AGREED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5th February 2026, as a true and accurate record as proposed by Cllr Good, seconded by Cllr Hannent. Minutes were duly signed.

4. To adjourn the meeting to allow members of the public to speak on agenda items

Dog mess was raised as an issue.

5. To receive reports from District Councillor, County Councillor & Police. To receive report from Village Hall & Primary School

An email report received from the County Councillor was circulated electronically. County Cllr B. Borrett and the Police were not in attendance, District Cllr Bambridge gave a brief update on district matters including the Local Plan, Flooding issues and Local Government Reorganisation. Cllr Good gave an update on matters at the Village Hall and confirmed that due to the success of the solar project, the village hall had been able to keep the fee increase to 5%.

6. To receive update on matters arising from previous minutes for information only

Anglian Water confirmed that the leak had been repaired and the case was closed on 18th February. The Clerk was asked to go back to Anglian Water and clarify what was repaired, understanding they had resolved an issue with drinking water, not the flooding around garden centre / Chaucer close. It was confirmed that the Football Club (previously playing in Frettenham) have found an alternative pitch but would like to consider Bawdeswell's proposals for future years. Clerk is awaiting confirmation of their requirements to forward to Council for consideration.

7. Play equipment – To receive update & consider / approve further action regarding dogs on recreation ground (signage) and approve replacement seats roto bounce & air rider

Concern was raised about dog's mess on the area between the basketball court and bowling green, and on the recreation ground in general. It was acknowledged that some dog owners are not heeding the warning signs. Following discussion, it was unanimously **AGREED** to put a strongly worded piece in the Reeves Tale highlighting the Council's frustration about the situation and confirm that unless a compromise can be found (welcoming input from dog owners), the Council will have to take other measures to restrict dogs on the recreation ground as proposed by Cllr Shannon, seconded by Cllr Good. Clerk to speak to Breckland's Dog Warden and see what other options are available. Clerk to look at getting the message out on Bawdeswell village Facebook page.

It was unanimously **AGREED** to approve the quote of £1306.82 + VAT for the replacement of the roto bounce and air rider seats as proposed by Cllr Craven, seconded by Cllr Hannent.

The Clerk gave a brief update on the play area following a site visit from Creative Playgrounds, plans to be forwarded to councillors once received. It is acknowledged that this will form part of a larger refurbishment project and other play companies will be consulted, grant funding opportunities explored.

8. Village Hall Driveway – To receive and consider quotes for refurbishment of village hall driveway

Two contractors were asked to provide quotes for consideration. One contractor did not feel a complete refurbishment of the drive and car parking area was necessary this year but provided a quote for future consideration (£11700+VAT) and a quote for £1750 + VAT to repair any areas that need attention as soon as possible. Another quote was received for full refurbishment of the drive and car park - £6,350+vat. As it was felt that the current undulations acted as a speed deterrent and there were no health and safety concerns, it was agreed that the Council would postpone any work to the driveway and car park and review in November (budget considerations).

9. BT Phone box – To receive update and approve further action regarding proposed removal of phone box

The handset was repaired. A notice had been displayed suggesting removal of the phone box dated September 2025. BT has subsequently confirmed that there was an error with the original notice period. A new notice period is in place (22nd January - 22nd April 2026). Breckland Planning will have been notified and any representations regarding the proposed removal of the handset will need to be made to them. BT are going to log the fact that there is concern due to the lack of a reliable mobile signal in the village so will be expecting an objection to the removal. It was unanimously **AGREED** to object to the proposal to remove

the BT phone due to the poor and unreliable mobile signal as proposed by Cllr Shannon, seconded by Cllr Good. It was agreed to highlight the consultation in Reeves Tale and promote as a village resource.

10. Breckland Local Plan – To receive update

An email was received from Breckland who have published the first set of consultee comments, which includes Statutory Consultees alongside some additional consultee comments. Comments specific to Bawdeswell from local Highways were stipulating the need for 2 points of access to the 140-house site, alongside with safer pedestrian and vehicle access to the village centre, plus a car park for the school. In addition, the local education authorities are suggesting Early Years learning would be stretched by 140 houses, but that Primary and Reepham Academy could cope with transport provision and subject to some families having to send children elsewhere.

11. Bawdeswell Heath – To receive update

Cllr Shannon attended the Trustee meeting and gave a brief update. The clear majority of the Trustees wished to keep the status quo regarding the current use of the Heath; albeit recognising that the Charity Commission objected to the use of the Heath for recreational purposes. However, all accepted that they need additional younger trustees if the status quo was to be maintained; the alternative being selling the Heath at commercial rates with the assets going to the poor parishioners of Bawdeswell. To this end, the Trustees will send out flyers to parishioners of Bawdeswell and adjoining villages, plus Breckland, seeking additional trustee support and pointing out the alternative consequence if no support is forthcoming

12. Local Government Reorganisation – To receive update and consider / approve further action re community land transfers

Cllr Shannon gave a brief update on Breckland's community land transfer offer. As it was acknowledged that there would be no financial support for the transfer and the Parish Council would be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the assets and responsible for the costs following completion of the transfer, it was unanimously **AGREED** to take no further action regarding community land transfers as proposed by Cllr Shannon, seconded by Cllr Craven.

13. Highway matters – To receive update (HGV's on B1145, road sweeping / pavements)

The Clerk confirmed that a subsequent email was sent to Highways and Planning re future consultation on matters that increases HGVs on the B1145. Other than acknowledgment, no further correspondence was received. The District and County Councillor were thanked for their support.

The issue of detritus on pavements and roads was highlighted. Highways responded that they *'have assessed this problem and it does not meet our criteria for repair at this time. We will continue to monitor the problem as part of our routine inspections.*

Additional officer notes: only a few leaves found not up to intervention level but I think someone must have cleared them up'

There was frustration that the situation did not warrant attention as leaves remained on the paths. It was agreed to highlight that Highways are failing the village in terms of care and maintenance of roads and pavements, and encourage residents to report issues to Highways.

14. Asset register – To review asset register and approve addition of defibrillator (donated in 2017) and football container

It was unanimously **AGREED** to add the defibrillator (donated 2017 – cost confirmed by donor as £2808) and the Football Container purchased October 2025 (£500) to the asset register. It was confirmed that the defibrillator would continue to be insured under the Village Hall insurance. The shipping container may require separate insurance, Clerk to make enquiries and confirm that the contents are insured.

15. Planning

(a) To consider planning applications received

Discharge Conditions 4, 8, 10 on PP 3PL/2020/1002/F at Solis Ortus, 5a Reeves Close, Bawdeswell for information only.

(b) To receive decisions from Breckland District Council

No decisions were received from Breckland District Council

(c) To consider any late planning applications

No late planning applications were received.

16. Finance

a) To receive income / expenditure budget figures to 28th February 2026 for consideration

The balance of the Community account as at 28th February 2026 was confirmed as £26156.40, Business Money Manager (Earmarked reserves) was £38720.07. Budget figures were circulated to Council for consideration.

b) To approve payments made, to be made and approve late payments as necessary.

All payments made and to be made as per schedule of payments were **AGREED** as proposed by Cllr Hannent, seconded by Cllr Good. The list of payments and receipts was signed by the one signatory left. A late payment of £147.40 to Cllr Shannon for the concrete blocks for the village green was approved

PAYMENTS					
-----------------	--	--	--	--	--

9th February 2026	Mrs Jo Boxall - refund laptop cable			£25.00
9th February 2026	HMRC Employers NI February (paid early in error)			£22.31
10th February 2026	Everywhen insurance (Mower)			£128.92
13th February 2026	Muddy Badger - Recreation Ground clearance and waste disposal			£170.00
28th February 2026	Mrs Jo Boxall - February salary & exps (£23.50)			£589.22
RECEIPTS				
28 th February 2026	Business Money Manager interest			£44.76
FUTURE PAYMENTS				
	Bawdeswell Village Hall – Hall Hire			
	Mrs Jo Boxall – March salary & exps			£565.72
	HMRC Employers NI March			£22.31

c) To approve expenditure in respect of refurbishment of Football container

It was unanimously **AGREED** to approve expenditure of up to £250 to refurbish the football container, as proposed by Cllr Hannent, seconded by Cllr Good

d) To approve expenditure in respect of bus shelter grounds maintenance

It was unanimously **AGREED** to approve the quote from Muddy Badger for the ground's maintenance around the bus shelters up to £350 as proposed by Cllr Good, seconded by Cllr Hannent. It was agreed to request the cutting back of the dog wood at the recreation ground near the mushrooms as recommended.

17. Correspondence

All correspondence received was circulated.

18. To receive items for information and receive items for the next agenda

As some councillors were experiencing issues accessing their Councillor emails. It was agreed the Clerk would continue to use their personal emails until the situation was resolved.

The Title Deed for the Village Hall shows the wrong address for the Parish Council so the Clerk has made enquiries about changing this.

Items for the next agenda to include the end of year accounts, dog mess on the recreation ground and insurance for the Football container.

19. To approve the date of the next meeting as Thursday 2nd April 2026

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 2nd April 2026 starting at 7pm.

20) To close the meeting

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.43pm.